

Dolgelley Rural District Council

---

# ANNUAL REPORT

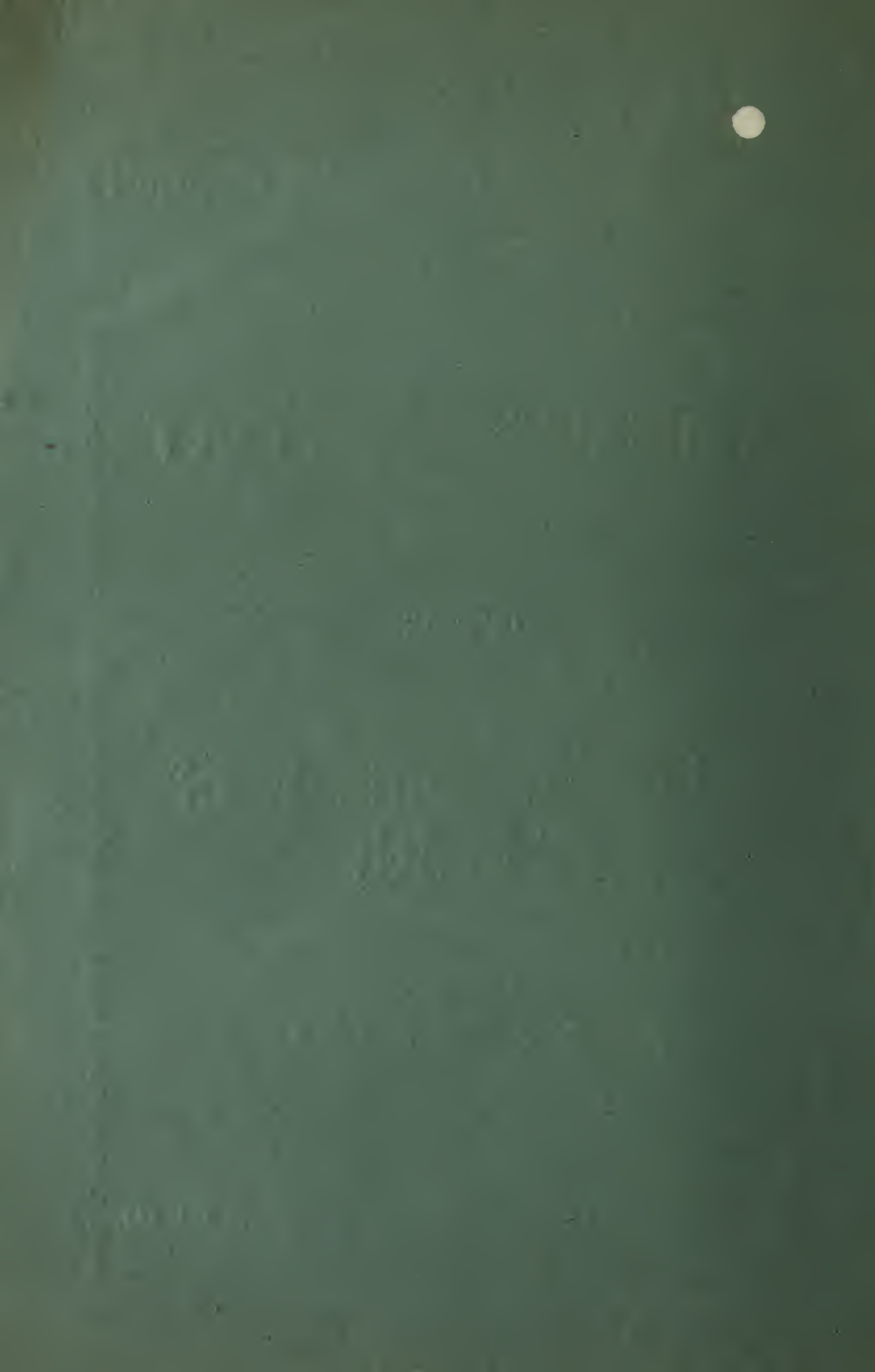
OF THE

Medical Officer of  
Health

For the Year 1937

---

Printed by Hughes Bros., 'Dydd' Office, Dolgelley. Tel. 147.



# TO THE DOLGELLEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Davies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my report upon the sanitary condition of your district during 1937.

The Dolgelley Rural District consists of 13 parishes, and has an area of 150,128 acres. The residential population for the year 1937 is estimated by the Registrar-General to be 7,246 as compared with 7,325 in 1936.

The district may be described in general terms as rough, mountainous, and mainly agricultural, where the soil is mainly thin and poor, and where sheep farming largely predominates.

It contains a number of mountains of considerable height, such as Cader Idris and Arran Fawddwy, both being nearly 3,000 feet in height. Between the mountain ranges are many deep and beautiful valleys. The small, hardy Welsh sheep find pasture upon the extensive uplands. The sea coast forms largely the Western boundary of the district. The inhabitants are mainly engaged in agricultural pursuits. There are a few slate quarries in the parishes of Talyllyn and Llan-fihangel-y-Pennant.

The number of inhabited houses at the end of 1937, according to the Rate Books was 2,045.

The rateable value at the same date was 20,710, and the sum represented by a penny rate was £81 19s. 8d.

## VITAL STATISTICS.

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Live Births—Legitimate ... ..	98	45	53
Illegitimate . ...	4	2	2
Still Births—Legitimate ... ..	4	2	2
Illegitimate . ...	0	0	0

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	14.08
Birth Rate legitimate infants per 1,000 population ... ..	13.52
Birth Rate illegitimate infants per 1,000 population ... ..	.41
Still Births—Rate per 1,000 population ... ..	.41
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births ... ..	37.74

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Deaths .. .. .	120	58	62
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	16.56		

## DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES.

There was one maternal death during the past year. This occurred at a Hospital outside the County.

Maternal Morality per 1,000 live births ... ..	9.80
Maternal Morality per 1,000 live and still births ...	9.43

### Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age.

Total Death Rate ... ..	98.04
Total Legitimate Infants ... ..	91.84
Total Illegitimate Infants ... ..	250.0
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ... ..	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ... ..	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ... ..	0
Death rate from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) per 1,000 of population ... ..	0

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

There have been no alterations or developments since 1930, which need to be mentioned.

It is regrettable that there is no Ambulance service for the larger part of the area. Most of the serious accident cases and acute surgical cases have to be conveyed to the nearest hospital in an ordinary open or closed car. Transit thus necessitates a good deal of jolting and pulling about of the patient. This adds to the initial high degree of shock in these serious accident cases and surgical emergencies. One can only call it criminal that some of these profoundly shocked patients are removed to Hospital in an ordinary closed or open car.

Arrangements were being made to convene a Joint Conference of neighbouring authorities to consider a joint scheme.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

### Water Supplies.

**Talybont.**—The main scheme at Talybont has worked very satisfactorily, and in August the work on the extensions from

Wylfa Groes to Caegarw and from Llanddwywe to Coed y Bachau were commenced.

The supply has been good, and there was no question of shortage during the summer months.

**Taicynhaeaf.**—This scheme was completed early this year, and has proved its value to the inhabitants of the village. The sand filter with its area of 10/2/3 square yards has worked very well. The caretaker in charge of the works pays careful attention to the condition of the filter.

**Rhoslefain.**—Not much progress has been made in respect of supplying Rhoslefain with water. Several committees have been held, and not until October did any proposal take shape. This time it was resolved to supply five houses near Castell Bach from a well known as Ffynnon-y-Gwdd.

It was also proposed to sink a well in Rhoslefain Farm field, and to supply the Post Office, Farm, Cottages, and School House from this source. Work has been started on this well, but it is too early to report more fully.

**Llwyngwrl.**—The supply has been satisfactory all through the year except for on short period when several bursts occurred. It has been resolved to extend the water main from near Henblas to building plots along the Towyn Road. This work will be put in hand during next year.

**Dyffryn.**—I am glad to say that there was an improvement in the supply at Dyffryn although the reservoir was emptied at one period. Nothing could be found within this district to account for this.

The length of main from the Post Office to the Station has been relaid with 3" Class C, Everite pipes, and has done away with the complaints which were received along this length. The springs at Caerffynnon have been cleaned, and the collecting drains opened and cleaned.

**Aberangell Water Supply.**—The extension to this work has been carried out, and is working very satisfactory. I am glad that this work has been done as it was badly needed.

**Bontddu Water Supply.**—Complaints were received in respect of the above supply, and on investigation it was found that the pipes were filled up and needed re-newing.



New 3" pipes have been laid from the source to a point near Llechfraith, thus ensuring an ample supply to the service reservoir near Vigra. New 2" pipes have been laid from near Pen-Nebo along the whole village, and I am glad to say that the work is proving very satisfactory.

**Llanelltyd Water Supply.**—Complaints have been received from certain areas in this village in respect of shortage of water. There is difficulty in finding a suitable source in order to eliminate the complaints, and also to allow the housing proposals to be carried out.

The difficulty here is that the reservoir is too low to serve the higher levels, and something must be done at an early date.

## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

**Llwyngwrl.**—A proposal has been made to extend the sewer from "Henblas" along the Towyn road in order to take in certain properties. This work will be put in hand next year.

**Corris.**—No further steps have been taken in respect of a sewerage scheme for this village. I must again call attention to the need of such a scheme for Upper and Lower Corris.

**Dyffryn.**—I am glad to note that the Council have adopted plans of a sewerage scheme for this village. The proposals provide for the whole village at an estimated cost of £7,687, but I understand that it is intended to proceed with part of the scheme at an estimated cost of £5,539.

**Fairbourne.**—This scheme has worked well during the past twelve months, and the pumping plant has been completely overhauled, and is now in excellent condition. Pumping is carried out at regular intervals.

## Rivers and Streams.

There are no industries in the district to pollute the rivers and streams. There are some careless individuals who throw their household refuse into our beautiful streams. In the districts which are regularly scavenged there is no excuse for this objectionable habit. Warning notices are posted up in some localities to prevent this undesirable custom, but it is not easy to abolish it altogether.

### Closet Accommodation.

Water Closets .....	419
Dry Earth .....	1973
Midden Privies .....	108

### Scavenging.

This Authority undertakes the scavenging of the villages of Dyffryn, Llanelltyd, Arthog, and Barmouth Junction, Friog and Fairbourne, Llwyngwril, Llanegryn, Abergynolwyn, Corris, Aberllefenni, and Mallwyd. These are let out on contract for twelve months. Contractors have to remove all house refuse between the hours of 9 p.m. and 8 a.m., and are responsible to see that the lorry or cart in use has a suitable cover. It is essential that these stipulations be carried out to ensure the dustless removal of refuse. In all cases the refuse is disposed of by tipping on suitable sites provided by this Authority, and in a purely rural area of this kind, which is so sparsely populated, there is no difficulty in efficiently disposing of refuse of all kinds.

It is regrettable that no tender was received for the scavenging of the villages of Dinas Mawddwy and Aberangell.

The cleaning of privies, ashpits, and cesspools is done by the occupiers of the premises.

### Sanitary Inspection of the District.

Total number of formal notices issued ... ..	5
number complied with ... ..	5
Total number of informal notices issued ... ..	15
number complied with ... ..	15
Total number of New Houses completed—	
(a) by Local Sanitary Authority ... ..	0
(b) by private enterprise ... ..	24
Number of plans—new houses, buildings ... ..	22
Visits to Bakehouses ... ..	7
Number of Notices re Defects ... ..	0
Visits to Cowsheds ... ..	70
Number of Visits re Defects ... ..	2
Visits to Milk Shops ... ..	0
Number of Notices re Defects ... ..	0
Visits to Dairies ... ..	71
Number of Notices re Defects ... ..	0
Visits to Slaughter Houses ... ..	21
Number of Notices re Defects ... ..	1
Notices re Removal of Ashes ... ..	2

Notice re Removal of Manure ... ..	0
Notices re Defective Drains ... ..	6
Number of Visits to cases of Infectious Diseases ...	64
Number of Houses Disinfected ... ..	35
Notices of defective Water Fittings ... ..	3
Number Pail Closets converted into W.C. ... ..	9
Number of New Water Closets erected ... ..	33
TOTAL number of Water Closets ... ..	419
Pail Closets ... ..	1973
Privies or other Closets ... ..	108
Number of Closets serving more than one house .	0
Milk Samples taken for Ministry of Health ..	0
for County Council ... ..	64
for Local Sanitary Authority ... ..	0
Water Supplies Inspected ... ..	167
Water Samples taken ... ..	5
Drains Inspected ... ..	79
Camping Sites Inspected ... ..	6

No action was necessary during the year under the provisions of the Shops Act 1934, relating to ventilation and temperature of shops and to sanitary conveniences.

#### **Smoke Abatement.**

No action was necessary in this respect during the past year. We have no fall of smoke to intercept the sunshine of this district.

#### **Swimming Baths and Pools.**

There are no (a) public or (b) privately owned swimming baths or pools open to the public.

#### **Eradication of Bed Bugs.**

No action was necessary during the past year.

#### **Schools.**

The supervision of the Schools is carried out in close co-operation with the School Medical Officer, who is also the County Medical Officer of Health.

The following were closed during the past year by the School Medical Officer owing to the existence of infectious diseases:—

<b>School.</b>	<b>Period of Closure.</b>	<b>Reason for Closure.</b>
Arthog	22 Dec. to 24 Dec.	Scarlet Fever.
Aberangell	25 Jan. to 5 Feb.	Influenza.
Llanfachreth	6 Jan. to 22 Jan.	Measles.
Abergynolwyn	25 Jan. to 5 Feb.	Influenza.
Tynyberth	8 Feb. to 12 Feb.	Infectious Colds.



## HOUSING.

### 1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year:—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ..	115
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	166
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ... ..	30
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	46
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous of injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..	16
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... ..	18

### 2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices:—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ... ..	21
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----

### 3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:—

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... ..	19
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By owners ... ..	19
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners .	0

## (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ..	2
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---

(2) Number of dwell-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--

(a) By owners ... ..	2
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	0

## (c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ..	0
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ..	0
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---

## (d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ..	0
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... ..	0
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---

**4. Housing Act, 1936—Part IV.—Overcrowding:—**

(a) (i.) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ... ..	23
(ii.) Number of families dwelling therein ... ..	27
(iii.) Number of persons dwelling therein ... ..	97

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during year ... ..	0
---------------------------------------------------------------------	---

(c) (i.) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... ..	1
(ii.) Number of persons concerned in such cases ... ..	5

- (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have  
 gain become overcrowded after the Local Author-  
 ity have taken steps for the 'abatement' of over-  
 crowding ... .. 0
- (e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding  
 upon which the Medical Officer of Health may con-  
 sider it desirable to report ... .. 0

I am glad to note that steps are now being taken to provide working class houses within this district. I understand that building sites have been selected at Llanegryn, Dyffryn, Llanelltyd, and Bontddu. I hope that before the end of next year this Authority will have erected working class houses at these places, also in other villages in the district, and especially in the industrial village of Corris.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

### Milk Supply.

There are six producers of Tuberculin Tested (Certified) milk within the district licensed by the County Council. This milk is the genuine article produced under ideal conditions. It is high time the public realised the full value of milk as a food, and appreciated the necessity of having this important article of diet in as wholesome and uncontaminated condition as possible. I sincerely hope that the number of T.T. producers will increase yearly, and that soon the public will refuse to consume only some form of graded milk. Samples of T.T. milk are sent once a month to Aberystwyth for analysis on behalf of the County Council, and the results have been satisfactory.

The cowsheds and dairies are periodically inspected. The dairies on the whole are kept clean, and are periodically lime-washed. In some cases there is room for improvement in the structural condition of the cowsheds, and in the sanitary conditions of the surroundings. Grooming of the cow is not carried out in the small farms. The milkers on the whole are clean in their person, but washable smocks are not so generally used as they should be.

### Meat.

The slaughter houses are very small, and some are not structurally up to modern standards. They are kept clean and are periodically lime-washed. There are no public abattoirs in the area. Small centres of population should combine

in some convenient place, where all the slaughtering business of the surrounding districts can be carried out.

The few meat shops in the district are kept clean, and the meat is not exposed to contamination by flies and other injurious materials.

### **Bakehouses.**

All these are very small and are periodically inspected. They are kept clean, and are lime-washed at intervals. In the case of bread, like meat, the great bulk of it is brought in from the adjoining districts.

There are no underground bakehouses.

### **Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.**

The work is carried out for this Authority at the laboratories of Messrs. Evans, Lescher Webb, Ltd., of Liverpool. Water analysis is also carried out by them.

Samples of milk are sent to Aberystwyth as directed by the County Council.

### **Workshops and Workplaces.**

These are few in number, and very small. They are occupied for the most part by the owner. Their sanitary conditions are on the whole satisfactory.

### **Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) notified during the year 1937.**

Disease.	Total Cases Cases Admitted		
	Notified.	to Hospital.	Deaths.
Smallpox .....	0 .....	0 .....	0
Scarlet Fever .....	22 .....	0 .....	0
Diphtheria .....	1 .....	No. ....	0
Enteric Fever (including Para-		Hospital	
typhoid .....	0 .....	Available .....	0
Puerperal Fever .....	0 .....	0 .....	0
Puerperal Pyrexia .....	1 .....	6 .....	6
Pneumonia .....	7 .....	6 .....	6

### **Other diseases notifiable locally—**

Erysipelas .....	1 .....	0
------------------	---------	---

Of the twenty-two cases of Scarlet Fever seven occurred in the month of December—the disease in the first instance having been contracted outside the district.

Five occurred during September at Ganolwyd and Llanfachreth. In these cases again there was evidence that the disease was contracted outside the district.

These cases occurred at a Private School (for Mental Defectives), and two at another similar private school.

The remaining cases occurred in various parts of the district at different times, and I was unable to trace the origin of the disease. It is gratifying to note that the County Council is now taking steps to provide an Isolation Hospital. This is urgently needed as complete isolation and adequate measures to prevent spread of infection is impossible in the houses of the working classes.

There is no change in the facilities provided for the diagnosis and treatment of infectious diseases.

### Tuberculosis.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Res.		Non Res.		Res.		Non Res.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 ... ..								
1 ... ..								
5 ... ..	1							
15 ... ..		1		1				
25 ... ..	2	2	1		1	1	1	
35 ... ..	2				1			
45 ... ..	1				1			
55 ... ..	5	1			1	1		
65 and upwards ...	3	2			1	1		
Total ... ..	14	6	1	1	5	3	1	

The notification of this disease in the area is satisfactory.

Total Tuberculosis death rate per 1,000 of the population 1.24

Total Pthithis death rate per 1,000 of the population ... 1.10

### Cancer.

The death rate from cancer in the area during the past year was 1.52 per 1,000 of the population. The total number of



deaths was 11, and of these 6 occurred in males and 5 in females.

### **Prevention of Blindness.**

No action was taken under Section 66 of the Public Health Act, 1925, for the prevention of blindness or for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury to the eyes.

No case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum was notified during the year.

In conclusion, I would like to express my indebtedness to our Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Tudor G. Evans, for his assistance in all my inspections of the district.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

R. W. EDWARDS,

B.Sc., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Gwyndy, Dolgelley.

